

C A M P A I G N F O R ACCOUNTABILITY

March 19, 2018

By Email: MDHHS-FOIA@michigan.gov

Legal Affairs Coordinator
Office of Legal Affairs
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
333 S. Grand Avenue
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Re: Michigan Freedom of Information Act Request

Dear Sir or Madam:

Campaign for Accountability (“CfA”) makes this request for public records, regardless of format, medium, or physical characteristics, and including electronic records and information, audiotapes, videotapes and photographs, pursuant to Mich. Comp. Laws § 15.231 *et seq.*

Specifically, CfA seeks copies of all performance/progress reports submitted to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, or its predecessor, the Michigan Department of Community Health (collectively “Departments”), by Real Alternatives regarding Real Alternatives’ contracts with the state under the Pregnancy and Parenting Support Services Program. This request is for records from October 31, 2013 through the present.

By way of background, the Michigan Legislature has designated a portion of the Departments’ budgets for a “pregnancy and parenting support services program” to “promote childbirth, alternatives to abortion, and grief counseling” for each fiscal year beginning with 2013.¹ The allocation has been categorized as “prenatal care outreach and service delivery support” under the “Family, Maternal, and Children’s Health Services” heading.² Pursuant to the appropriations bills, the Department must “establish a program with a qualified contractor that will contract with qualified service providers to provide free counseling, support, and referral services to eligible women during pregnancy through 12 months after birth.”³ Real Alternatives is the recipient of the grant and, according to the grant agreement, must submit quarterly performance/progress reports to the Departments.⁴

If it is your position that any portion of the records requested is exempt from disclosure pursuant to Mich. Comp. Laws § 15.243, please provide a written notice indicating the basis for

¹ 2012 Mich. Pub. Acts No. 200 at 32; 2013 Mich. Pub. Acts No. 59 at 32; 2014 Mich. Pub. Acts No. 252 at 32; 2015 Mich. Pub. Acts No. 84 at 157; 2016 Mich. Pub. Acts No. 268 at 166; 2017 Mich. Pub. Acts No. 107 at 174

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

⁴ Grant Agreement Between Michigan Department of Community Health and Real Alternatives for Michigan Pregnancy and Parenting Support Services Program, Contract No. 20142043, Dec. 16, 2013, at Attachment C.

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that determination. Mich. Comp. Laws § 15.235(5). If a requested record contains material that is exempt from disclosure as well as material that is not exempt, please produce the portions of the record that are not exempt. Mich. Comp. Laws § 15.244.

CfA is a non-profit organization and seeks the requested information primarily to benefit the general public. Furnishing copies of these records will allow CfA to inform and educate the public about state funding received by a private organization. Accordingly, CfA requests that the information be provided without charge. Mich. Comp. Laws § 15.234(2). If a fee waiver is not available, please inform me if the cost will exceed \$200.

Please respond to this request within 5 business days of receipt, as required by Mich. Comp. Laws § 15.235(2). If possible, please email the records to me at dstevens@campaignforaccountability.org. If the records are mailed, please send them to: Campaign for Accountability, 611 Pennsylvania Ave S.E., #337, Washington, D.C. 20003.

If you are unable to meet this statutory mandate, foresee any problems in releasing the requested records in whole or in part, or have any questions about this request, please contact me at 202-780-5750. Finally, I welcome the opportunity to discuss with you whether and to what extent this request can be narrowed or modified to better enable the Department of Health and Human Services to process it. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dan E Stevens", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Daniel Stevens
Campaign for Accountability